Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Thron'd with the monarchs of the blest abode!
Such the reward a life like his obtains,
The praise of angels, and the smiles of God!

Larne, Oct. 1809. M'ERIN.

A MICHAELMAS RIDDLE.

"*Da nuces pueris.*".....OVID.

DIC mihi nomen animalis,
Plumatique, et bipedalis;
Quod, ultimum iter, urbem latum,
Michaelis festo perdit fatum.
Cujus pennæ alent multos,
Juvant doctis, terrent stultos;
Plumæ formant id quod Hymen,
Dat devotis; et lenimen
Defessis duro est labore,
Ægritudine, dolore;
In quo vitam subibamus,
Et ærumnas terminamus.

NEMORENSIS.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Langsdorff to Dr. Noehden, dated from Port St. Peter and Paul, in Kamtschatka, the 6th of June, 1805.

WE left Kamtschatka in the month of September, 1804, and sailed for Japan; a country that has scarcely been visited in a scientific view, except by Kæmpfer and Thunberg. All who have any opportunity of going thither will find, that the former did more with regard to the history and description of the country than would seem possible; and the latter has published such a flora of it, as no one can expect to equal.

On proceeding to Japan we had planned many fine schemes and formed the most flattering expectations. But on our arrival at Nangasacki, while we were treated in the most honourable manner, we were prisoners in the lodgings assigned us; and were guarded with the utmost strictness, being deprived of all communication with the inhabitants, except a few Dutch interpretors; and at length when the Emperor's answer arrived from Yeddo, we were loaded with presents and very politely dismissed.

Thus we could hardly think of making excursions in quest of subjects of natural history. Besides we were at Japan only during the winter months, from October 1804, till April 1805. We were furnished gratis with provision, and every thing that could be necessary to supply our wants; but we were not allowed to purchase the smallest trifle. Fortunately, ichthyology, one of my favourite branches of natural history, is closely allied with the demands of the kitchen. Accordingly I took care to desire the man, who daily brought provision to our state prison, to supply us with as many different kinds of fish as the season and the markets could furnish. In this way I was enabled to procure, during the last three months, about four hundred of the rarest fish in the Indies, and among them were about an hundred and fifty different species. I transmit to Mr. Blumenbach, for the present, a short account of such as are already known; and I hope another time to send him one of the new species.

Our return from Japan to Kamtschatka was do doubt one of the most interesting voyages that can now be made. We ran down and examined the north-west coast of Japan, which was hitherto unknown. We determined with precision the position of the strait of Sangoar. We reconnoitred all the west coast of Matzumai. The north part of this island, though under the government of the Japanese, is not inhabited by them, but by another people, known in Europe by the name of long-haired *Curibes*,* who call themselves *Aecnocs*. The part of Matzumai inhabited by them is called Yeso, whence the islands of Yeso and Matzumai are frequently confounded with each other. The Peak of Lamanen

* See Blumenbach de Generis Humani varietate nativa, ed. 3. p. 29.

of la Peyrouse does not belong to the Continent, as he imagined, but forms a separate island.

We crossed la Peyrouse's strait, stood to the north, and entered the deep bay of Sagalene (gulf of Aniwa) formed by the two promontories Crillon and Aniwa. It was not visited by la Peyrouse, but we now know, that the Japanese settlements extend to it, for we found a regular Japanese factory there. This country is inhabited by the Aeenoes mentioned above. The figures of the inhabitants of Sagalene in de Langle Bay, published by la Peyrouse, are very characteristic, and may give an idea of the inhabitants of Matzumai likewise, except that these do not actually shave the crown of the head, but merely cut the hair shorter there than behind, and on the sides. These Aeenoes however have not longer hair than many Europeans, if we leave their long beards out of the question.

We had intended to explore all the eastern coast of Sagalene (called also Seghaleen, and Tchoka) but when we reached the vicinity of Patience-bay, we found the sea still covered with an immense quantity of floating ice, though toward the end of May, so that it was impossible for us to continue our voyage; accordingly we were obliged to put into the harbour of St. Peter and Paul, in order to wait for a more favourable season for examining these coasts. Yesterday we arrived here for the second time, and I hasten to write to you to day.

We had long been anxious to receive letters from Europe. Yours afforded me infinite pleasure, but I regret, not having received that you addressed to me at Rio Janeiro: it missed me, because we did not put in there, but at St. Catharine's. This prevented me from availing myself of the good instructions which you and Mr. Blumenbach then sent me. But this I can assure you, that with respect to plants, particularly the ericæ, asplenia, &c. as well as the marine families, I have made a point throughout the whole voyage of collecting with great care and industry, and storing them up in my herbal. My collection of insects too is very considerable; but I have been able to do little with respect to mineralogy, as the coasts wherever we have anchored, have been barren in this respect, and we have not been able to penetrate into the country.

Aulic counsellor Tilesius, who is an excellent draughtsman, has copied many subjects of natural history.

After having written to you on the past, I shall impart to you my plans for the future. Enriched with so many treasurers, no doubt it would be most natural for me to retire to some place, where I might quietly digest this intellectual nutriment. But first I have been induced to engage in a new expedition, by promises, which, if they be kept, must furnish interesting results for the knowledge of a part of the globe at present little known, in respect to natural history. In short, I shall here quit the expedition of Captain Krusenstern, an excellent man, who is loved and esteemed by all that accompanied him; and I shall leave my friends Horner and Tilesius, as well as the officers, who will always be dear to my memory, in order to visit the west coast of North America; particularly the great island of Cadiac, at the mouth of Cook's river. The chief of this expedition will be Mr. Chamberlain Resanoff, the same person who was sent on the embassy to Japan. He will be particularly commissioned to visit the Russian settlements in America. In a few days I shall set off for the Aleutian islands, and in six weeks I hope to reach Cadiac, where I shall probably spend the winter. The following summer, that is in 1806, I shall proceed to Ochotsk, whence I shall set off, over land, for Petersburgh, in the winter of 1807. The good state of health I have hitherto enjoyed, makes me hope, that I shall equally support the fatigues, to which I am now going to expose myself.

Further Accounts of the Voyage of Dr. Langsdorff, extracted from a Letter addressed by him to Professor Blumenbach, of Gottingen, dated from Port St. Peter and Paul, the 7th of June, 1805.

I hasten to answer you on one of the subjects, of which you speak in your last letter. I can assure you, that the

astonishment some have expressed at my noticing in a foreign climate the natural productions that are well known, and even common in our own country, has never appeared to me a sufficient motive for discontinuing this practice. It was with the more pleasure, therefore, I read what you wrote, on the importance it is to the philosophical study of natural history, to know what similar productions are found in remote countries. This last year I remarked in Kamtschatka, a great number of lepidopterous insects common in Europe; as *bomb.* plantiginis and caja; and *pap.* machaon, napi, daplidice, urticæ, maturna, euphrosyne, and apollo. I send you an accurate delineation of the latter, that you may form an idea of the difference occasioned by climate, between it and that of our countries, with which it might be confounded at first sight. I have also collected in Kamtschatka, a great number of other European insects. As to land, river, and sea-shells, and the vermes in general, that branch I have relinquished entirely to Mr. Tilesius.

I have learned, that Steller's sea-calf, trichecus manatus Lin. of which you speak, has long retired completely to the north, almost as far as Behring's Strait, so that I have little hope of meeting with one in my progress. I am told, that it has disappeared from Behring's Island, as well as from the rest of the Aleutians.

During my last residence here I prepared the skull of a wild sheep of this country *(argali, capra amon)* which I intend for your collection. This time Mr. Tilesius has succeeded in procuring one, a fine drawing of which he will send you. As he will probably reach Europe before me, he will forward to you the skull I have prepared.

In my letter of the 23d of August last, I mentioned to you the elegant tatooing of the inhabitants of the Marquesas, and I have since repeatedly regretted, that I did not send you an accurate drawing, to give you a more concise idea of it. I now repair the omission, and enclose a drawing of the tatooed hand of Katanuœh, queen of Nukahiwa, the largest of the new Marquesa islands. I drew it from the life with the greatest care. In the same manner I drew the whole length figures of a man; one a front, the other a back view, and I would have sent these also, had I not been afraid of the numerous accidents to which a letter is liable in its long journey from Kamtschatka to Gottingen.

You will see by the letter I have written to Dr. Noehden, that I shall not reach Europe very soon: accordingly I have requested Dr. Horner to present you from me the finest skull I have of an inhabitant of the Marqueses. I hope before my return to find something else worth offering you.

I shall now say a few words respecting our voyage to Japan. On the 7th of September, 1804, we sailed from this harbour, and instead of proceeding through the Sea of Korea, steered our course southerly so as to make the tour of Japan on the east. With this view we traversed the Japanese seas, which few Europeans have yet navigated, and which are consequently considered as very formidable. It is true we had not the pleasure of discovering new countries or new islands; but we at least acquired a more accurate knowledge of several groupes, which are laid down in the maps, near the south-east coast of Japan. Most of these islands we found did not exist, at least in the places assigned them. Thus we sought in vain for the Volcano islands, from lat. 30°. to 34°. and from long. 213°. to 216°.

On the first of October we had a terrible hurricane, some particulars of which I will give you from my journal. According to every reckoning we must have been very near the land, and from the maps we must already have passed the Little Lekey Islands. On this alarming day we were in longitude 226°. For several days, as well as on the morning of that day, the weather had been cloudy and rainy, with a great deal of wind. About noon it cleared up, and we got an observation, The latitude was 31°. 7'. The barometer was at 29.40 according to the English graduation. About one o'clock it grew cloudy again, the wind blew violently, the waves rose to a great height, the barometer continued sinking and the wind increased in the same proportion. About half after four it was so cloudy, that the mist, the rain, and the waves

that broke over us, involved us in such darkness, we could scarce distinguish the ship's head, or the masts. The waves rose higher and higher in an alarming manner, and about half after five the barometer had sunk to 28.3. The wind rose higher and higher, and carried away a great deal of our rigging, as well as our sails, which blew about like handkerchiefs, held by one corner, with a most frightful noise. We were obliged to lash down the helm, and abandon ourselves, under bare poles, to the violence of the most terrible hurricane, and to the waves, that gave us shock after shock. Dark night covered us, the barometer continued to fall, and the wind acquired a force never heard before. Every moment we expected our masts to go by the board, and stood ready with hatchets, to cut them away.

The mouths of the guns on the poop were level with the sea. Wave after wave washed over us, and the pumps were constantly going. About eight o'clock the mercury in the barometer, having continued to sink, was no longer visible; the scale graduated in the English manner, beginning only a few lines below 28. It could be seen only when the ship received very severe shocks. The crew was as active as possible, to prevent injuries from the storm, and to remedy those that were continually happening. The storm continued. A speaking trumpet could not be heard, and nature seemed to have conspired our destruction. About ten o'clock the mercury could not be seen even in the strongest shocks of the vessel. About eleven, I was hoping, with Dr. Horner, that the mercury would again become visible, when the vessel shipped a sea, that stove in the double bulkhead of the Captain's cabin, where we were. We were washed into different corners, and thought ourselves on the brink of being separated for ever. The officers continued however to encourage the crew, and contrived to stop up the opening in the bulkhead. About one o'clock the mercury was again visible in the most violent shocks; but it may be supposed, that the storm and the wind still raged with great violence, while the barometer was not above 27.6. We looked for the return of the mercury with all the impatience which we expect that of an old friend; but the moment we were about to experience this pleasure, the vessel received another violent shock, and the barometer was broken. The fury of the wind and the sea, however, appeared to abate, and about four in the morning we could flatter ourselves we were freed from the most imminent peril.

When the sun rose, the weather was tolerably calm; and I believe the beneficent rays of that luminary never inspired more thankfulnes, than on that 2d of October. But in what state was every thing around us? it was truly a chaos; the striking image of destruction! Chests, casks, sails, ropes, every thing pell-mell. The cabins were so inundated, that clothes, books, papers, all were drenched with water, and we were obliged to bring them on deck, to dry them in the sun. From the most moderate calculation the barometer must have been as low as 27.3; and the danger we had run appeared from the nearness of the land which we saw in the south.

On the 8th we cast anchor at Nangasaki.

I cannot give you much account of Japan, where we wintered. I can only say, that I collected a great number of scarce and remarkable fishes, which will contribute not a little to extend our knowledge of ichthyology. We both laboured very hard; and I hope you will find, that, notwithstanding the seclusion in which we were kept, and the shackles put on every connexion we might have formed with the inhabitants, our harvest in this branch was pretty good. I transmit you a catalogue of the fish I collected, but I am obliged to make it out in haste, and it is far from complete. I have for the present placed among the doubtful genera those of scina, bodianus, perca, labrus, sparus, holocentrus, &c. and have not examined the species. Hereafter I shall examine them all at more leisure. When I quote Linnæus I refer to Gemelin's edition. I pass over many, the Japanese names of which I could not learn.

I am far from rivalling Mr. Tilesius in drawing, but have done what I could, and several of my drawings are intended for your collection. I send you this

time some characteristic silhouetts, that are accurate likenesses of Japanese; and to give you an idea of the singular manner in which they tie their hair, I add a coloured drawing of our porter.

I am now going to pack up all these subjects of natural history, and send the boxes to Europe by the ship on board which I have hitherto remained. For my own part I shall embark immediately for the north-western coast of America, where I hope also to form an interesting collection.

Catalogue of some of the Japanese Fishes.

Hammo; Fammo.—*Muræna conger.*
Matsukasa iwo. Gasterosteus japonicus, L.
Kotschi. Platycephelus, Bloch. Callionymus indicus, L.
Itasakotschi. Trigla minuta, L.
Sebi iwo. Triglæ volitantis var. Seu potius nova species.
Mischimaschoroschi. Uranoscopus scaber, *L. var.* corpore nigriçante albo maculato.
Kittaeo. Gymnothorac catenatus, Bloch.
Sajori. Esox brasiliensis, *L.*
Kimmebaru?
Kannagaschira. Trigla cuculus, L.
Susi buku; Saba buku; Susume buku; Mma buku; Mmo buku; Komom buku.—*Tetrodontis species.*
Ogan, an Scarus?
Fuka; Same.—*Squali species.*
Umikinkio, an Percæ nova species?
Konoschiro. Clupea trissa.
Anaki. Blennius muræenoides, L.
Jazume anaki. Petromyzon fluviatilis.
Fiefki; Dazu.—Fistulari tabacaria.
Mma iwo. Syngnathi species.
Sima iwo. Chætodon vespertilis, Bloch.
Komuki. Chætodontis species nova.
Anko. Lophius piscatorius.
Waschi, Zeus faber.
Ginno waschi. Zeus argenteus, mihi novo species.
Okose. Scorpæna volitans.
Ogosse. Scorpæna didactyla, L.
Uschinosta karei. Pleuronectes bilineatus.
Horranda mebaru. An Holocentrus perca.
Kussuna. Coryphæna japonica.
Sakkino iwo. Cepola nova species,
Aracabn. Scorpena.
Zuschibo; Jamome kamome.—Ostracion, an nova species?
Koosa. Mærouri nova species.
Nokon nooso. Squali nova species, pristi affinis, sed rostro cirrhato.
Bensatsch. Mullus.
Aka anko. Lophius faujas,* Lacepede.
Same. Raja rhinobatos, L.
Takka karei; Koochanda karei.—Pleuronectes.
Doscheo. Cobitis fossilis.
Onaki. Muræna anguilla.
Itoi jori. An Perca lineata, L.
Makutsch. Mugil.
Jaina iwo. Chætodon guttatus, Bloch.
Nobusu; Nabekusara kaschi.—Coryphænæ nova species.
Dscha iwo; Wanibuka.—Squalus ophiocephalus, nova species
Osche. Squalus.
Simano iwo; Kembata iwo.—Chætodon occellatus, Bloch.
Je. Raja rubus.
Raja aquila.
Rajæ species nova. Cauda apice pinnata, aculeo longo ferrato arma, corpore lævi glabro.
Kamass. Esox spyræna.
Tai. Sparus dentex.
Oskikotschi. Callionymus japonicus.
Karei, Pleuronectes zebra labio superiore cirrhato.
F irasi. Scomber.
Jeso. Salmo, an Lavaretus?

*We now know where this singular fish is found, which is so rare in Europe, that only two specimens are yet known; one at Paris, in the Museum of Natural History, to which it was transferred from the Stadtholder's collection; the other in the valuable collection of Mr. Blumenbach, at Gottingen.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS,
Published in London.

GREEK, LATIN, ARABIC, AND HEBREW.

GLOUCESTER, Greek Grammar, 8vo. 8s. bound.

1st The Hebrew Reader, or a Practical Introduction to the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures, for the use of learners who were not taught Hebrew at School, and of schools where it has not yet been introduced, 8vo. 2s. boards. 2d, The Hebrew Reader, part the second, containing Hebrew Extracts from the Bible, 8vo. 3s. boards. 3, Copper-plate Copies of Hebrew Letters and Words, designed as a companion to the above, 1s.

The Arabick Alphabet; or, an Easy Introduction to the Reading of Arabick;